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General Summary of News.

ASIA.

Bombay.—A Courier Extraordinary has just reached us from this Presidency, dated Nov. 1, 1819, which conveys to us in an official shape, information that will be hailed with pleasure, not only by those to whom the esteemed and venerated Individual to which it relates, is personally known, but to all India, at large; for to every corner of it, from the Ganges to the Indus, and from Caubul to Cape Comorin, his public character and his private virtues are intimately known and highly appreciated. But we hasten to announce an event, which, by extending the sphere of his influence and power, will extend with it also, correspondent blessings to those who fall within its range.

With the Governments of the Eastern and Western Barriers of our Indian Empire in such hands as they now are, and with the central line that connects them, filled by high talent, unimpeachable integrity, a noble zeal for public good, and a warm interest in the diffusion of private happiness, what may not even the least sanguine expect?—If there are other quarters, to which the destinies of Heaven have not yet extended these advantages, the time will come, no doubt, when there shall be no longer any hovering clouds in the South, to chill or darken the influence of that glorious light of Liberty, Benevolence, and Paternal Rule, which has spread like the Sun from the East to the West, and which will soon so illumine all the Indian Hemisphere, that its beams shall never again be obscured by all the efforts of those who love the darkness rather than the light.

BOMBAY COURIER EXTRAORDINARY.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1819.

Proclamation.

WHEREAS the Honorable MOUNTSTUART ELPHINSTONE, hath been appointed by the Honorable the Court of Directors, to the Office of Governor of Bombay and its Dependencies, it is hereby proclaimed that the Honorable MOUNTSTUART ELPHINSTONE has, on the day of the date hereof, received charge of the said Office of Governor, and taken the usual Oaths and his Seat accordingly.

By Order of the Honorable the Governor in Council,
F. WARDEN,

Bombay Castle, November 1, 1819.

Chief Secretary.

The following information is from the Bombay Courier of the 30th of October, which reached here with the Extra Gazette of the 1st of Nov. The reports of the two Entertainments, the one given at Bombay, the other at Poonah, will be regarded probably by some as unerring indexes of the public feeling that prevailed at these respective places, on precisely similar occasions. We shall not presume to question the accuracy of the inferences that may be drawn from the contrast. All, however, will remember the well-known adage, "Virtue is its own reward."

Bombay, Oct. 30, 1819.—The Honorable Mountstuart Elphinstone arrived at this Presidency about 10 o'clock on Wednesday evening from Poonah. He was saluted by 16 guns from the saluting battery at sunrise next morning.

We had a smart shower of rain on Thursday at sun-set, which lasted nearly half an hour. From the appearances of the eastern horizon during the afternoons of the last five or six days, and from the non-arrival in due course of the Bengal and Madras dawks, we conclude that the Madras monsoon has set in with some violence, and that there has been a heavy fall of rain above the ghats.

A great scarcity of wheat prevails at present in this island, and we have heard of some having being purchased by the bakers for their immediate wants at the enormous price of 120 rupees per candy. The scarcity is attributed to large exports of wheat to the Isle of France some months ago, and to the non arrival of any subsequent supply from the northward, were we understand, there is still a considerable stock on hand, but that owing to the state of the roads immediately after the rains, it had not been practicable to convey any quantity down to the sea coast for shipment.

Entertainment to Sir Evan Nepean.—On Thursday evening at Lowjee Castle, at the Entertainment given to the Right Honorable Sir Evan Nepean, upwards of 150 Gentlemen sat down to an excellent and well arranged dinner. H. E. Sir C. Colville, G. C. B. in the Chair. Upon the cloth being removed, the following toasts were given:—

The King.

The Prince Regent.

Sir Evan Nepean, three times three; drank with great enthusiasm.

Sir Evan returned thanks and gave—

Health and prosperity to the Presidency of Bombay.

The Duke of York and the Army.

The Duke of Clarence and the Navy.

The Honorable East India Company.

The Marquis of Hastings, three times three.

The Governments in India.

The Hon. Mountstuart Elphinstone, three times three.

Sir R. King, and the Squadron in India.

Sir W. G. Keir, and success to the Expedition under him, three times three.

Sir C. Colville, Commander in Chief, by W. G. Keir.

Captain Collier, and the Naval part of the Expedition.

The Ladies of Bombay by Captain Collier.

Various other toasts were drank during the evening, amongst which were, the health of Major General Baillie; Lady Nepean; Lady Colville; Mr. Bell and the Civil Service; The Chairman, Sir C. Colville; &c. &c.

Entertainment to Mr. Elphinstone.—From Poonah a correspondent writes us, that a most splendid Entertainment was given on the 12th instant to the Hon'ble Mr. Elphinstone, sole Commissioner, &c. by the Civil and Military Gentlemen who have served under him in the Deccan.

The Entertainment consisted of a dinner, ball and supper, and the old palace was fitted up for the occasion.

The gentlemen of the society, headed by Brigadier General Smith and the other Stewards, were in readiness to receive their much honored Guest at the gate of the palace, where there was likewise a street formed of a squadron of Cavalry and the flank companies of the Bombay European regiment with the regimental colors.

At half past 6, the company, consisting of above 100 gentlemen, proceeded to the dinner tables, which were laid out in one side of the square verandah forming the interior of the palace. The repast offered every delicacy that could be procured, and the wines did honor to the exquisite taste of the gentlemen who had charge of that branch of the arrangements.

The verandah was tastefully lighted up with colored lamps, and over the centre of the table was a transparency containing the arms of the house of Elphinstone, the effect of which was greatly heightened by its being placed between two paintings of Gothic windows. Behind Mr. Elphinstone's chair was a full length portrait of Marquess Wellesley, that eminent statesman under whose auspices he first laid the foundation of the high fame he has since acquired.

When the cloth was removed, the following among many other national and local toasts were drank.

The King.

Prince Regent.

Duke of York and the Army.

Duke of Clarence and the Navy.

Honorable East India Company.

The Marquis of Hastings and the Supreme Government.

The Honorable M. Elliot and the Government of Madras.

Sir Evan Nepean and the Government of Bombay, &c. &c. &c.

After the health of the Hon'ble East India Company, the President, Brigadier General Smith, stood up and addressed the company in the following impressive manner.

Gentlemen,—You will all naturally expect of me in proposing the health of our noble Guest, that I should introduce the toast with some allusion to his eminent virtues, and with some expression of the admiration and regard, which we all bear towards him. (*Hear, Hear!*)

Gentlemen,—When I took this chair as the organ of your sentiments towards our universal friend, I felt, I assure you, that I had undertaken an enviable honor, though it would prove extremely difficult to me, from my want of talents, to speak of Mr. Elphinstone as he deserves, without

disturbing that retired modesty with which he has constantly shunned the glare of his own brilliant career, (*Hear! Hear!*) and difficult to me also, Gentlemen, from my inability to do justice to the warmth of your attachment to his person and character. (*Hear! Hear!*)

But I cheer myself, Gentlemen, with the knowledge, that I am addressing a general society, the Civil and Military Officers, who have long had the felicity of serving under one of the most liberal of mankind, (*Hear, Hear!*) and I hence derive confidence that you will receive my humble endeavours with the consideration I shall so greatly need of you on an occasion in which we all feel so much more than we can express. (*Hear! Hear!*)

Gentlemen,—You are all aware, that the present Entertainment is but a small part of that demonstration of our feelings which we had originally proposed to ourselves.

We had taken measures for conveying to Mr. Elphinstone, a more lasting tribute of our regard, in a service of Plate, and I am most happy to acquaint you, that the universal feeling had rendered that proposal more splendid and successful than we had even expected.* (*Hear! Hear! Hear!*)

The recent decision, however, of the Governor General, in his Reply to the Inhabitants of Madras upon a nearly similar case, though known to us subsequently to the adoption of our intended compliment to Mr. Elphinstone, prevented our proceeding further in that object. It has been suspended, Gentlemen, that we might save both parties the pain of his refusal, for with a similar noble and delicate mind, and in deference to such high authority, no doubt seemed to remain, that the Commissioner must have decided as the Governor General had resolved before him. I know you all too well, Gentlemen, to believe that you could wish to proffer an unmeaning compliment.

Gentlemen,—I will avoid throwing the gloom over your countenances by dwelling long on what our society loses upon Mr. Elphinstone's departure, though I could appeal to you, if there's one amongst you, whatever his situation, rank, or pursuit, who has not shared in his kindness (*Hear! Hear! and loud applause*), who has not enjoyed the delights and benefits which emanate from his well stored mind, always cheerful, generous, and instructive (*Hear! Hear! and loud applause*). The most arduous public labors, the most intricate toils of the statesman, never for a single day diverted him from his favorite practice of diffusing happiness to all around him, never for an hour retarded the active exercise of his extensive friendships (*loud and repeated applause*.)

Gentlemen,—I have been unintentionally carried on to an allusion of Mr. Elphinstone's public exertions, while perhaps it would better become the object of this meeting, that I should confine myself to his personal virtues, but I felt it difficult to contemplate this assembly in the palace of the haughty court of the Peishwah, without associating with it, the recollection of those events which have contributed so largely to the satisfaction of our country, and of the Court of Directors; and hence, it became impossible not to ascribe the happy termination of those events to the genius, moderation and foresight of our illustrious guest (*Hear! Hear! loud, long and enthusiastic applause*.)

Gentlemen,—I shall only detain you a few moments longer; it will be to join you all in a cordial bumper to the health and happiness of that gentleman who unites in his own character, the high qualities of the statesman, of the good soldier, and above all, of the good and great man.

"THE HONORABLE MOUNTSTUART ELPHINSTONE."

Rapturous applauses, which continued while the band marched three times round the table playing—"The Garb of old Gaul." Bumper after bumper was drank during this period, expressive of the enthusiastic admiration of so noble a character. A salute of 19 guns was also fired at this time, but such were the thunders of applause that they were scarcely heard by the company. As soon as silence was partially restored, Mr. Elphinstone rose and expressed himself as nearly as could be collected, in these words.

Gentlemen,—If I am unable to find adequate terms to express my acknowledgements for the honour you have done me, I hope you will not attribute it to want of gratitude for your great and distinguished kindness, but will accept my thanks as they are offered, with perfect confidence in their warmth and sincerity. I have lived too long in this society not to feel the greatest esteem for its members and the utmost anxiety to merit their good opinion. In this view, the intention mentioned by the gallant general is, in the highest degree, flattering to me, but I own, I am pleased that intention has been laid aside. I could not, with propriety, have accepted such a mark of your favour, and it would have given me pain to decline it, lest it might be construed into insensibility to the honor conferred on me. No addition of that sort, Gentlemen, could increase in my eyes the value of your approbation, and I assure you, that the most splendid and costly present, could never afford me a hundredth part of the gratification which I have derived from the mere expression of your applause. Gentlemen, I return you my cordial and sincere thanks; I shall always remember with pleasure the time I have spent among you, and shall ever retain a grateful recollection of the kindness I have received from you. To my gallant friend, I beg to offer my acknowledgements for the handsome manner in which he has spoken of me. His liberality is the more conspicu-

* Between 50 and 60,000 rupees had been subscribed for the purchase of a service of Plate.

ous, as he is himself entitled to claim so ample a share of the merit which he is pleased to ascribe to me. I beg now to propose the health of the Gentlemen with whom I have the good fortune to be associated in the settlement of this territory, and to whom I feel a deep sense of public and private obligation.

"GENERAL SMITH AND THE OFFICERS CIVIL AND MILITARY IN THE POONAH TERRITORY."

Mr. Elphinstone having sat down, General Smith rose and returned thanks in the following terms.

Gentlemen.—Upon returning thanks to Mr. Elphinstone for the kind and flattering mention he has made of us all, I must again feel how imperfectly I have expressed your sense of his merits either in his private or public character; but I was sensible, Gentlemen, that in neither character could he require my eulogium: they have been engraven on your hearts through long and varied scenes of intercourse. Gentlemen, we can only wish him.

"AN INCREASE OF FAME AND HAPPINESS WHEREVER HE GOES."

When General Smith had concluded speaking, Major Bingham rose and addressed the company in a strain of animated eloquence, indicative of his own and the universal feelings of society towards the gentleman whose presence had so long and abundantly diffused happiness amongst its members. Such were the expressions of applause that attended Major Bingham's speech that it was impossible to connect it in form to be printed.

Mr. Elphinstone again rose and said,

Gentlemen.—I must say a few words in answer to the flattering terms in which Major Bingham has spoken of me, and which I feel are far beyond my deserts. In military affairs I was a mere spectator of the exploits of others. In private life, I was so happy as to be placed in a society where I had only to imitate those around me to secure their good will; and it was to their support I owe any success that has attended my public measures (*Hear! Hear! loud and great applause*). Mr. Elphinstone went on.—

Gentlemen.—I am about to propose a name which we have before drank as one of a body, but which I am sure we are all desirous to bring forward by itself. I wish I were able to do full justice to the gallantry and virtues of its possessor, but I shall content myself with reminding you that it is to his valour we owe the expulsion of our enemies from this place, and to his moderation and discipline, that it is not now a heap of ashes, I beg to propose.

"THE HEALTH OF BRIGADIER GENERAL SMITH."

After loud applauses, General Smith said in reply,

Gentlemen.—In returning your illustrious guest and all of you my sincere thanks for the honor you have just done me, let me assure you that whatever compliments or notice, the accidents or good fortune of service, may heretofore have brought me, nothing has ever come more welcome to my heart than the flattering terms in which my health has been proposed and received; I return you all my very grateful thanks. (*Great applause*.)

The Gentlemen were now called from the festive board by the more fascinating attraction of the ball room, which was already graced by the ladies of the station, forming a groupe of beauty and fashion, combined with happy countenances which were indexes of the feelings that pervaded each lovely bosom towards the gentleman whom they had been invited to meet, and whose polite unremitting and delicate attentions and kindnesses have ever been so ardently devoted to the promotion of their pleasures and comforts.

The ball room, was splendidly fitted up in the part of the palace formerly the Gunness Mahal, and presented to the eye an assemblage of taste and brilliancy never surpassed. The color of the room was a beautiful pale blue relieved by a splendid silver trellis work surmounted by a rich Grecian border of the same, brilliantly illuminated by two superb chandeliers and numerous lustres around the colonnade, the double pillars of which were most tastefully fluted with blue and silver. The capitals and rich carved work of the arches being entirely covered by the same, gave a chaste effect to the whole, which it is impossible to describe.

A full length transparency at the top of the room presented an altar surmounted by the arms of the Elphinstone family, with their motto "CAUSE CAUSED IT", supported on the one side by "FAME" and on the other by "MINERVA"; the former encircling the crest with a wreath of laurel with one hand and blowing her trumpet with the other over which was a scroll inscribed "Tam Marti quam Mercurio." Under a colonnade on the right of the room were two pavilions handsomely ornamented, one being appropriated to the bands and the other to refreshments.

The sprightly country-dance, relieved by quadrilles, was kept up with the most animated spirit till one o'clock, when the company retired to the supper room.

The President soon after gave, in the name of the Ladies,

"THE HEALTH OF MR. ELPHINSTONE."

Which he added he had been requested by his fair supporters to do as a token of their participation in the sentiments of esteem which had led to the Entertainment.

On this Mr. Elphinstone rose and replied—"I beg to return my grateful thanks to the ladies for the honor they have done me, and to assure them how much I am flattered by their condescension. When we last met, I proposed the health of the civil and military officers to whose courage in war, and talents in peace, we owe our present tranquillity and security, I now propose the health of those, without whose approving smiles peace would not be pleasing, nor war honorable."

"THE LADIES, MAY THEY LONG REMAIN THE GRACE AND ORNAMENT OF OUR SOCIETY!"

This speech was received with rapturous applause, and drank in bumpers, three times three; after this the President said he would indent on a Commissary who was present for a song, which was received with loud plaudits.

Dancing was eagerly resumed after supper, and the ladies gave throughout the Entertainment, and up to an early hour in the morning, the most cheerful, graceful, dignified, support.

The Commissioner, anxious to the last "to shun the glare of his own brilliant career," endeavoured to return home as privately as possible.

This, however, being perceived, he was followed to his palanquin by the Committee headed by the President, and numerous other gentlemen, who heartily cheered him in the true old English style of affectionate respect.

It was altogether, perhaps, the most gratifying and honorable scene, that any society could form, or that any individual less adored and admired could possibly create.

Egypt.—Letters have been received from Alexandria and from Grand Cairo, stating, that the victory obtained by Mohammed Ali over the Wahabees is still the theme of exultation at the Court of this Viceroy. On the occasion of the illumination which followed, our countrymen in that city were not wanting in their display of luminous congratulation; nor was Mohammed insensible of the compliment. He said to our Consul, who had the honour to be next to him when viewing the illumination, that though he knew the Europeans liked him, he never thought it was to the extent which the present occasion demonstrated; and that he preferred the light to £25,000 profit on a bargain.—This expression is quite characteristic of Ali, who is a merchant, and a pretty shrewd one. He is highly popular as a ruler, and labours to improve the condition of the people under him. His Minister inquires particularly of all our countrymen who are introduced to him, after the health of the King of England, and of the Prince Regent, &c. &c. Numerous packages, containing statues, and other antiquities from Upper Egypt, collected by the zeal and encouragement of Mr. Salt, were lying at Grand Cairo and at Rosetta, when the letters came away, waiting for a vessel to transport them to England. The English are much respected in Egypt; many of them have made parties and gone to Upper Egypt; and never were circumstances more favourable for excursions of this nature, the Pasha affording them every kind of countenance and facility. The Countess of Belmore, who is with one of these parties, has been farther up the Nile than was ever before effected by any European female.

Java and the Eastern Islands.—We have received by the late arrivals from England, a pamphlet on the trade of the Eastern Islands, from the pen of Mr. Assey, late Secretary to the Government of Java, which seems to have excited considerable interest at home, and from which we propose laying a few extracts before our readers.

The public attention appears to be fully awakened to the importance of that trade, and to the necessity of taking effectual measures for its protection. The late commercial distresses, and the want of sufficient outlets for our manufactures and commerce, which has been so sensibly felt at home, have attracted the attention of the commercial world in a particular manner to the opening afforded in the Eastern Islands.

The necessity of having some commanding station to the eastward appears to have suggested itself very forcibly, and we doubt not that the intelligence of the occupation of Singapore, which had not then arrived, would be received with eagerness and avidity, as perfectly coinciding with the opinions already so generally entertained on the subject.

We are further happy to learn, that the points at issue between our Government and that of the Netherlands, are in a fair way of being settled in a manner, that will probably be satisfactory to both parties.

China.—While we are on the subject of Eastern Affairs, it will be new to most of our readers, and acceptable, we doubt not, to all, to see a Summary of Intelligence from China, which has been published in a late Number of that excellent Work "The Friend of India," to which we have so often, and shall always again be ready to pay our tribute of commendation for the judicious selection of its subjects.

From the various parts of Eastern Asia a degree of information is now obtained far exceeding any thing ever before known. Not only have we intelligence from every part of Hindoostan, from Cabul, and

from the utmost bounds of Persia; the Burman empire furnishes its scanty quota, and the different islands which form the Malay Archipelago; and even China is now no longer a country hidden from European view. The various attempts made within these few years to cultivate the Chinese language, will certainly issue in a full development of that vast empire, with all that is interesting in its history, its literature, its government, and internal policy. The translation of the Scriptures into this language, while it will unfold to its immense population, the mysteries of redemption from its embracing so great a variety of matter, will lay open the language so effectually, as to prevent its being ever closed again upon the European world.

One immediate effect of these attempts appears in our being now able to obtain news from China, as well as from the other parts of Eastern Asia. While this half-civilized country is yet without an improvement possessed by the Persian empire above two thousand years ago, post-offices for the regular transmission to all parts of the empire of letters either on business or friendship, it publishes something in the form of a Government Gazette. This, while of course sufficiently barren of events is still valuable as furnishing facts which the government wish to be published among the people, often accompanied with such observations as they wish to impress on their minds. Articles of intelligence drawn from this source, are occasionally published in the Indo-Chinese Gleaner, a small but valuable work published quarterly at Malacca by the Rev. Mr. Milne, from which the following articles are in substance extracted.

These various articles, trivial as they may appear to some, throw much light on the present state of the country and the feelings of the government. Though professedly absolute, it is evident that the government is not indifferent to the opinion of the people. The half apologies made for certain of its acts, and the various instances wherein taxes are partly remitted, plainly discover an anxiety respecting public opinion, unknown formerly in the despotic states of Hindoostan; and as we can scarcely place this to the account of pure paternal feeling in the government, it sufficiently discovers its fear.

Peking Gazette, Jan. 15.—This Gazette has come to hand, but it is exceedingly barren of intelligence. One of the principal Ministers being in ill health, has requested leave of absence for a time, to which his Majesty has graciously acceded.

A Tartar Nobleman who was involved with *Sung-ta-yin*,* on his return to Court was summoned to an audience of the Emperor. His Majesty says, he expected, that this Nobleman would have acknowledged his offence, and been grateful for the lenity with which he had been treated. Instead of this, however, the Nobleman threw himself prostrate before the Emperor, burst into tears, and protested his innocence; pointing to heaven and swearing by the *Seen*, and uttering language which seemed to reflect upon the Emperor himself. The result has been, that he is completely disgraced, his title taken from him, and he is remanded to Tartary, to be kept in safe custody by the head of his tribe.

The Emperor has signed the death warrant of two statesmen—one of them an *Yu-shé* or Censor, who has been condemned on the charge of receiving a bribe to make some statement to his Majesty. The sentence is notified with a kind of apology from the Emperor, in which he says, that the Censors have been much better treated under the present Dynasty than under the last one; and that nothing but an irresistible necessity has induced him to destroy these two men.

The people seized in Peking on a charge of secretly manufacturing gun-powder, have been liberated. They were merely makers of fireworks; and were seized by the police, who wished for something to make a stir and prevent their being charged with remissness.

Several districts in the province of *Chih-le*, which had suffered in the spring by drought, have in the course of the winter been much injured by hail-storms. His Majesty has ordered some relief to be granted them.

From the Peking Gazette, dated January 20th.—It appears from this Gazette, that considerable vigilance is exercised in recovering sums due to the government from local magistrates who collect the duties. Several have been cashiered and thrown into prison for defalcation and embezzling the public money.

The Minister *Tung-kuo* was still unwell, and had solicited permission to remain at home a longer period, promising that when he should recover, he would put his forehead in the mire at the palace gate, and in that posture give thanks to his sacred Majesty, for his great indulgence to him.

A new appointment, like that of the *Kyoon-min* Foo at Macao, has taken place at *Tsen-tsin*. A difficulty had arisen respecting the seamen brought from the southern provinces to man the ships at *Tsen-tsin*. What was to be done with their families, was the difficulty. The governor of Peking represented, that to remove their families to the north would be troublesome, and that they were moreover, unaccustomed to the cold. It

* The late Prime Minister, who has been disgraced, and by way of punishment sent to hold a military command among the tribes in Tartary.

is therefore ordered, that these men serve for three years; after which time, should the northern seamen have made sufficient progress in naval tactics, these from the south may, if they prefer it, return to their families.

As is often the case in so large an empire, the harvest last year was deficient in various parts, and the people unable to pay the usual duties. It was particularly the case in the south-west province of Yun-nan. In that province also a large party of kidnappers have been apprehended, who had stolen and were carrying off (whither does not appear) more than a hundred women and female children. His Majesty has ordered immediate death by strangling to be inflicted on four of the leading offenders.

The following article sufficiently indicates the real state of the military in this empire. The Emperor has taken serious umbrage at the want of respectability into which the army is falling, and severely blames the liberties taken by the civil officers. He has heard, that a local magistrate will presume to walk shoulder by shoulder with a general in the army. The probable consequences of this to the safety of the empire, he apprehends will be very serious, if it be not remedied. He has therefore ordered a new edition of the laws respecting ceremony and etiquette, and insists on their being duly and rigorously enforced. The officers of the army having been found to employ too many of the soldiers as private attendants, and civil officers to have retained about them a crowd of inferior officers; respecting both of these cases, old regulations are revived, and new ones enacted. A Tartar General of the first rank is allowed ten men to attend on him for public service, but none for private purposes; other officers are allowed a proportionate number, but no men are to be perpetually attached to an officer, they are to attend for the day in rotation.

His Majesty has ordered the army in Manchew Tartary to be duly exercised, that it may be reviewed by him next year, when he shall visit that region.

The interference with domestic concerns visible in the article, will probably be found as inefficient, as it is curious. The extensive use of Tobacco, and the introduction of the Hookah into China, and even into Jehu, his Majesty's residence, has called forth a general order forbidding the culture of tobacco for the hookah in any province of China. As the province of Kan-suh, in the northwest corner of China, produces the best kind, which being profitable to the farmer, has been much cultivated there, the farmers are ordered to desist from planting it, and the venders of it, to seek for some other mode of obtaining a livelihood, on pain of being punished for disobedience. The reason assigned is, that tobacco is a mere luxury, and not one of the necessities of life.

Some individuals on account of the rebellion of 1813, and others for the murder of senior relatives, have been put to a slow and ignominious death by being cut to pieces.

Complaint has been made, that the criminal cases from the Szechuen province, have been of late unusually numerous. In one case of adultery the husband was murdered, and the woman's mother hanged herself. The Board of Criminal Cases has objected to the decision of the local government, and his Majesty has ordered the case to be tried anew by Tsyang, the late Viceroy of Canton, and has required the full application of torture to procure the truth of so heinous a crime.

Two cases have occurred of people's dying under torture unjustly inflicted. One of these occurred in Tartary, in which the torture was inflicted by the keepers of his Majesty's forests. It was found, that some one had cut down wood and carried it off by stealth. Several venders of fuel were suspected, seized, and tortured, till a confession was extorted: they were then carried before a magistrate, and found innocent; but two of them died of the tortures inflicted previously to being tried.

The prosecution and seizure of persons connected with secret associations still continues.

The feelings of the Emperor relative to Christianity are sufficiently evinced in the following article. It being reported that some of the members of a noble Tartar family, allied with the Imperial house, had received the Portuguese or European religion, his Majesty says, that they have all recanted long ago, and trodden on the cross; and that further inquiry is unnecessary. He however commands the images and crosses which they had not previously destroyed, to be forthwith burnt.

Peking Gazette, Feb. 1.—This day being the first of the Chinese new year, His Majesty has summoned a number of the princes, nobles, and statesmen, to Shih-yeh, "eat flesh." It is probably not known to Europeans in general, that this eating of flesh is feasting on a sacrifice. This is common in China among both rich and poor, but on many occasions they are permitted to divide the victims, and send a part to absent friends. On occasions like this however, no part of the victim must be taken away; it must be eaten in the imperial presence. The victim is also eaten alone, no other kind of provisions being admitted with it. Those who are allowed to partake, are forbidden to return thanks to the Emperor, it being considered as a divine feast: hence to give thanks to him, would be substituting him for the divinity to whom the sacrifice is offered.

Peking Gazette, Feb. 4.—His Majesty has again published, in a paper of considerable length, his intention of visiting the tombs of his ancestors, the spot where the family first rose to regal dignity. In this document he again severely animadverts on the late prime minister Sung Ta-yin. Death, the Emperor observes, was the just punishment of his offence; when that was dispensed with, perpetual imprisonment would have been merciful: how great then the clemency shown him, in giving him both liberty, and a military appointment among the Tartar tribes! This the Emperor was induced to do, however, from the consideration that Sung had long served his father, as well as himself, in the highest office next the Imperial throne.

His Majesty commanding all the governors of provinces, to receive kneeling the intimation thus given them, adds, that respecting Sung, they will, on reflection, easily perceive what his Majesty's feelings and difficulties must have been,—with his father's order on the one hand, to destroy any ignorant statesman who would dissuade a sovereign of the T'ing dynasty from visiting the spot of ground where the family first rose to greatness—and Sung's conduct on the other. He concludes by saying, that Sung was fond of performing petty charities and acts of kindness, but was ignorant of true greatness; and that although he must have faithful adherents, who feel grieved on his account, they are too mean a class of men to merit his Majesty's enquiring greatly about them, adding, "Let them do what they please, I, the Emperor, shall not trouble myself to think about it." How weak must be the understanding of a prince, or the hold he has of power, to induce him thus to address his subjects.

Peking Gazette, March 25.—It has been stated to his Majesty, that a foreign tribe of Shepherds, in the North West corner of China, in the province of Kan-suh, have suffered severely from a fall of snow. Eighty families have perished by it, and the whole of their cattle. Ninety-two families yet remain, and these the Emperor has exempted from all duties for three years to come.

On the 30th, the Emperor attended an exhibition of Archery, and awarded to the successful marksman, the usual honor, a cap decorated with a peacock's feather.

An Imperial mandate to the following effect has been received:—The manners of the Mungkoo Tartars were heretofore plain and correct; hence the laws in existence among them were lenient. But of late years, many native Chinese having passed unto Mungkoo Tartary, crimes have become more frequent. It is therefore ordered, that any Chinese in Mungkoo Tartary convicted of crimes, shall be punished according to the Chinese laws.

About a hundred families in the neighbourhood of the capital have been found to belong to a secret association. Having come forward to declare their recantation, however, they have been pardoned; but a list of their names has been taken, that, if again detected in the same crime, they may be the more severely punished.

Literary Exhibition.—The Emperor has himself examined the higher departments of the Literati this year, and has heard them read in the various classics. As might have been anticipated, some have been promoted, and others degraded.

His Majesty has also examined the progress made by his fourth son, a lad of fourteen years of age, and expresses himself much disappointed at finding him unable to write verses. The Emperor remembers well, that his august father, the late Emperor, examined him, at the age of thirteen, when on occasion the verses which might have been expected from such an age, were duly composed. The present failure His Majesty attributes to his son's tutors, who have been dismissed, and new masters retained.

It appears, that fifty persons of some note in the late rebellion yet remain undiscovered. A Censor has recommended amongst various other modes of discovering them, that the sea ports should be narrowly watched. On this occasion His Majesty remarks, that as all emigration has long been prohibited, a new law is unnecessary: as whatever has been long established, however, is liable to degenerate into mere form, the officers whom it may concern are required to see the existing laws against emigration rigidly enforced.

Chang, the judge of Shau-tung, and the conductor of the late English Embassy when in the province of Chih-le, has been degraded to a very low rank, and severely censured by the Emperor for his incapacity and bad government. Chang formerly remarked to the English, that the Emperor had "long ears" meaning that he heard what was done at a distance. This appears true in Chang's case, for in his charge the Emperor mentions his being addicted to opium.

* Sung, was of the Buddha sect, and though he allowed himself the free use of wine, was esteemed a very religious man. He gave away nearly all his salary and emoluments of office. As his offence appears to have been merely that of dissuading his Chinese Majesty from a journey, which perhaps others thought as idle as himself, it is likely this did not injure him in the affections of his friends.

EUROPE.

Parliamentary Reform.—Sir Francis Burdett's motion on Reform was received by the Anti-Reformers, both Whig and Tory, according to the Policy lately adopted. The Ministers did not say a word, and leading Whigs were as silent; so the task of replying to the mover was left to any who might like the opportunity of making a speech. This is certainly the most politic course that can be pursued by the other side: they are wise in affecting to treat with contempt what they cannot answer, and besides there would be an awkwardness in stirring the question of corruption, in which they are so much personally concerned.

The speech of the Honorable Baronet was perhaps, on the whole, the best he has ever made on the subject. It was very temperate; it embraced all the points connected with the necessity of Reform; it was not encumbered, like some of his former speeches, with antiquarian researches; and it very properly avoided any mention of particular plans. We are inclined to think, that Sir Francis, after a good deal of wavering between Radical and Moderate Reform, has come to this conclusion,—that, which ever he may be disposed to think best, the most rational and effectual mode of proceeding, is to urge none till there is some chance of succeeding. This is the most modest as well as useful course; and if all the Reformers would adopt it, without obtruding on the public their particular (and often intolerant) views, the general cause would be greatly promoted, both by the removal of a constant bone of contention, and by depriving their enemies of one of their chief excuses for refusing all enquiry.

It was objected, that this motion had been brought on late in the Session; but this the Mover very well accounted for. Nothing is more convincing than a little experience. The Whigs anticipated great triumphs from the result of the General Election: abuses were "to fall before them like sheep." Sir Francis did not think so; but he abstained from interfering with their exertions, in order that they might have fair play. Now what has really been done worth mentioning? A Committee has been appointed to enquire into the Criminal Laws, and another to enquire into abuses in the Scotch burghs, and we suppose the House will make some small reformation—will apply some "palliative," instead of remedies. This is the sum of the good; and if as much good as this could be effected in every session (which is not likely,) our abuses are so numerous, that we might be ground to death by taxation, and degraded morally and politically to an abject condition, before any great advance could be made or any effective relief afforded. But the truth is, that what good the Whigs may do is counterbalanced by the measures which the Boroughmongers carry through the House, and will carry as long as the people are unrepresented. All the calculations of the beneficial result of the exertions of the Opposition go upon the assumption that the other side are idle. They cannot, however, be idle: they must, as Sir Francis has well said, satisfy the demands of their borough masters out of the public purse, as well as at the expense of the rights of the people. Have the Whigs, with all their talent and their asserted encrease of power, been able to prevent the imposition of three millions of new taxes? No. Then we must resort to some change that will secure us from such an imposition upon a suffering and exhausted people,—an imposition made, too, in spite of the outcries of the very people who ought in justice to be the imposers as well as the payers of taxes.

The arguments of Sir F. Burdett may be summed up thus:—The people of England, once flourishing, are now wretched—starving at home, or flying their native land; once they were free and elected their Representatives and Magistrates; now the Majority of their own House are nominated by a few persons whose interests are directly opposed to theirs;—in short, matters have become so desperate, in consequence of the extravagance and profusion caused by the long continuance of a bad system, that some means must be adopted, in order to avert utter ruin. The means hitherto tried have proved insufficient even to stem the torrent of corruption. Changes of Ministry have been unavailing, for we have still driven on to the point where we are now. The only remedy that remains is then to give the people the power, through their Representatives, of disposing of their own property and blood. This will prevent the ruinous effects produced by the opposing interests of the governors and the governed, as the many will then receive benefit from their wise, and injury from their foolish measures.

In answer to these powerful arguments, the Anti-Reformers say, that it is very true the present system has its evils, or, as Mr. Grenfell delicately expresses it, its "imperfections;" but then what system has not? and what can be more imprudent, not to say absurd, than to abandon its real advantages, for what is merely a conjectural good.—Then again, some of these prudent gentlemen want a specific remedy,—something that shall be clearly advantageous without any danger. Thus they would put up (they tell you) with the most monstrous corruptions, and cruel oppressions, because those who want to reform them cannot make the remedies appear as clear and in such "tangible shapes" as the abuses. They are like a man who should enter another's house, shut the door upon the right owner, and refuse to let him in, though he knew his voice very well, because the deal wood prevents his seeing his face, to tell whether he was friend or enemy.

This motion will however do good: it will show once more how little is to be said in denial of the claims of the people. It will (as a minor advantage) also show the Whig Reformists as they are called, in their true

colours. Mr. G. Lamb apologized, if he had said any thing "disrespectful" of the House; and Lord John Russell opposed any enquiry, because it would throw a slur on the state of the Representation, and create an alarm among the people! How pure must be the Representation! And how contented and fearful of change the people!

Ferdinand.—That poor Creature Ferdinand has given another specimen of his exceeding stupidity. He has discharged all those who were foolish enough to become his Ministers. The Marquis of Casa Yrujo, his prime Minister, and a man who was thought to be capable of striking some blow in South America, was ordered away at midnight, and had only an hour's time, according to some accounts, to get away from Madrid. Men must be strangely infatuated, or intoxicated with a little power,—a very "brief authority,"—who would expose themselves to the caprice and cowardly despotism of such a miserable thing, who has outdone, in capriciousness, the most contemptible of the Roman Emperors. In the few years that he has been in possession of the Spanish throne, there have been no less, it is said, than 25 changes of Ministry. The Monks we suppose, are at the bottom of this affair.

There is bad news from South America. MacGregor, who took Porto-bello a short time back, with the assistance of his English soldiers, has been driven out of it in a very disgraceful way. He had neglected the ordinary caution of keeping outposts, in consequence of which, the Royalist General, who had advanced from Panama with 1000 men, came suddenly upon the town, on the morning of May 1st, and entered it, killing and wounding 100 men, and taking 370 more. No more than 12 escaped, among whom was MacGregor himself, who upon the first alarm rose from his bed, leaped out of a window 20 feet high, and swam to one of his squadron in the harbour. To add to his disgraceful conduct, too, a Colonel in the Corps threw himself into the fort with 250 men, and sent to request MacGregor to assist him. The General promised to be with him in an hour, but instead of keeping his word, his ship was soon perceived to be gliding out of port, on which the fort was obliged to surrender.

This is of course bad enough, as it assists to retard the overthrow of the Royalists; but it is to be recollected, on the other hand, that this MacGregor is said to be little better than an adventurer, who not being connected and acting in concert with any of the rising Independent Governments, might have one day been engaged in disputing with them, instead of fighting battles with the general enemy. There are two circumstances besides, which are cheering just now,—the forward state of a fine corps of British and Irish volunteers, now rising in Ireland; and an agreeable account in the Paris papers of the unfitness for sea of the Russian fire-built vessels, which composed the eternal Spanish Expedition.

Patriot Service.—The following statement respecting the legion now raising in Ireland appears in the *Dublin Evening Post* of the 29th June.—"General Devereux's Legion.—"The 1st Light Infantry belonging to this Regiment is now in progress of formation and equipment, under the command of Colonel Power, late Major of the gallant 28th Foot, an officer eminently fitted for this distinguished rank, having been in more than thirty general battles, independent of various affairs of less moment. Several officers of experience have already joined the Light Infantry, which promises to be in every respect one of the finest corps in the Patriot service. Though but a few days on foot, such is the anxiety of officers and men to obtain admission into this regiment, that there is no doubt of its being complete and at sea by the 1st of August. The 1st rifle regiment of Devereux's legion has embarked, and the 1st Lancers, a remarkably fine regiment, commanded by Colonel Aylmer, is complete in officers and men, and will sail in a few days."

General Savary.—It is said that General Savary, Duke of Rovigo, who lately arrived at Gravesend, has received the permission of Ministers to reside in England.

Singular Diversities.—A singular instance of the diversities that occur in the history of the same family in revolutionary times, will be found in that of M. de Serre, the French Minister of Justice. A brother of this Gentleman (who himself bore arms in the service of Louis XVI.) was brought as a prisoner of war to this country, holding a commission in the army of Le Clerc, in St. Domingo; he has since married and settled in Leicestershire, and become so strongly attached to the religious principles of some of our dissenting sects, as occasionally to preach amongst them. He is now officiating at the Baptist Chapel, Blackfriars-road.

Population.—The last Census taken, two years ago, of the inhabitants of North America, makes the population between ten and eleven millions; when they published their Declaration of Independence they were not quite four millions.

Singular Discovery.—Late, while a labourer was digging peats in the moss at La Mancha, parish of Newlands, once the seat of the Earl of Dundonald, his spade struck against something hard, which, upon digging, was found to be the body of a man, and identified by some old people in the neighbourhood to be that of a countess of the late Earl of Dundonald, grandfather to the present Lord Cochrane, who, about 74 years ago, committed suicide, by cutting his throat, and was buried in this spot in a sack. The straw ropes which had fastened the sack were found almost fresh, although the sack was nearly all consumed. The clothes, on the body, stockings, and garters, were also almost entire, and the colour of the vest and breeches, (red velvet) little decayed. The razor, also, with which

he had taken away his life, was found at his side. The body itself was in such a state of preservation, that it could be lifted entire, and carried away for re-interment; but the neighbours stripped it of most part of the clothes, each curious to secure a remembrance of this extraordinary fact.

A Clergyman and the Press.—A Newcastle paper says—"In the first division of the Court of Session, a few days ago, in an action against a Clergyman who conducted a newspaper in a provincial town, at the instance of the foreman of the printing-office, for a communication of profits, the Lord President expressed his marked disapprobation of the Clergyman's conduct, in occupying himself in affairs unconnected with the proper duties of his sacred office; and his Lordship directed the Procurator for the Church to take the matter into consideration."

Bible Monopoly.—Another meeting of Booksellers and Publishers was held on Wednesday week, to receive the Report of a Committee appointed at a former meeting to inquire into the assumed right of the King's printer and the Universities to circulate Bibles and Prayer-books exclusively; and to consider what course was to be pursued in consequence of the proceedings instituted in Chancery against various individuals who had sold Bibles and Prayer-books.—The Report referred to a number of cases and law decisions to show that this right to monopoly had been invariably denied by the Courts of Law; and it instanced the editions of the Prayer-book published by Mr. Justice Bailey and others, to show that all publishers of the holy books had not been prosecuted. The report was agreed to; and a subscription entered into to defray necessary expenses. In the course of the conversation, Mr. Offer, alluding to the editions of Bibles and Prayer-books published by the Universities, said it was notorious, that those printed by private individuals were better executed, and more correct. An University edition of the Bible had put forth 12,000 copies, in all of which a blunder was committed, by making a sudden stop in the midst of one of St. Paul's Epistles, and then going on with the 7th chapter of the book of Revelations. Another of these standard editions had called the parable of the Vineyard, "the parable of the Vinegar." And again, a University Prayer-book had, instead of "the world," promulgated this prayer—"O Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of 'the Lord'."

Commercial Distress.—The following Letter is from the Commercial Agent in New York of a considerable Manufacturing House, in York-shire, dated New York, June 6, 1819.

"I have just returned from a tour to the principal trading depots in the Union, which has occupied my time for the three last months; and a most melancholy task I have had—never before did I witness such distress and embarrassment as every where prevail, on account of the over-stocked markets, and the low price of all descriptions of goods. I delayed writing till now, in the hope of having something favourable to communicate, but, alas, that is not the case; and instead of sending any orders, I cannot even advise you to make a single consignment! Such, indeed, is the over-glutted state of the markets on this side the Atlantic, that it would take a brisk demand of many months to lessen, in any perceptible degree, the immense stocks on hand; and whatever goods arrive, for some time, must either be reshipped, or consigned to rot in stores.

The shoals of emigrants, from all quarters of the globe, but more particularly from England, Ireland, and Scotland, continue undiminished: those who bring no property with them, (by far the greater proportion) will only have exchanged for the worse, as trade here is now at an extreme low ebb in every branch. It would swell my present letter to too great a length were I to attempt to name the commercial failures that have occurred here within the last six months. I shall, therefore, leave them to reach you through other channels."

Royal Christening.—On the day appointed for the private christening of the infant princess, the child of the Duke and Duchess of Kent, preparations were made for the ceremony at Kensington palace: the royal gold font was removed from the Tower of London, and was fitted up in the grand saloon with crimson velvet coverings, from the chapel-royal, St. James's palace, under the direction of Mr. Nash, of the Lord Chamberlain's Office. The members of the Royal family, and others invited to the ceremony assembled at the palace soon after three o'clock. The Prince Regent, attended by Sir Benjamin Bloomfield, was received by the Duke of Kent, who conducted him to the grand saloon; and immediately after the arrival of the Regent the ceremony commenced, which was performed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, assisted by the Bishop of London. The infant princess was named Alexandria Victoria. The sponsors were His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, His Imperial Majesty the Emperor Alexander of all the Russias, who was represented, as His Imperial Majesty's proxy, by the Duke of York; the Queen Dowager of Wurtemberg, who was represented as Her Majesty's proxy, by the Princess Augusta; and Her Serene Highness the Duchess Dowager of Coburg, who was represented, as her proxy, by the Duchess of Gloucester.

St. Helena.—We learn that rear-admiral Plampin has been removed from the command of the squadron at St. Helena, and that rear-admiral Edward Leveson Gower has been appointed to succeed him.

France.—Paris papers say that important affairs appear at this time to engage the Cabinets of the great Powers. Their solicitude is particularly exercised regarding the differences between Spain and Portugal. Persons well informed pretend that the following project of cession and division is at present under discussion:—Portugal is to be united to Spain

which will cede to England the Island of Cuba and two ports on the coast of Portugal and Spain. The project appears extraordinary, but it may have some foundation. At any rate, there is a rumour on the subject among diplomatic people. In order to indemnify Portugal, Spain is to cede Monte-Video. Russia has made new applications to Spain to obtain the islands of Majorca and Minorca; and it is expected that, in the present situation of affairs, she will succeed in her object.

Intelligence from Genoa states, that several mariners belonging to different ships arrived from England, have been suddenly arrested. This affair has excited the most lively sensation, and various reports are circulated with it.

It would really seem, from the American papers lately received, as if doubts were seriously entertained of the disposition of Spain to ratify the Treaty by which the Floridas have been ceded.

Paris.—Paris Papers of June 23, say that on the previous day, the Chamber of Deputies resumed the discussion on the law of Finance. An article relative to military pensions gave occasion to a member, M. Dupont, deputy from the department of the Eure, to notice a petition which had a few days previously been presented to the Chamber from an old grenadier of the consular guards, demanding payment of a pension of 600 francs, which had been granted to him as a compensation for having saved the life of Buonaparte on the 18th Brumaire, when the usurper burst into the hall of the Council of Five Hundred.

"I was at that period," said the orator, "a Member of the Council of Five Hundred, and was present at what is called the Affair of St. Cloud. All the circumstances passed under my eyes, and I declare upon my honour, in the presence of all France, that no attempt at assassination was at that time committed against the person of Buonaparte, that no poinard was directed, nor an arm raised against him, and consequently, that the Sieur Pourcee could not have shielded him with his body.

"I call upon my colleagues Dannon, Chaband-Latour, and Jard-Panvilliers, who, with me, were Members of the Council of Five Hundred, and I request them to say whether the assassination of General Buonaparte is not a falsehood, designed to justify the violence committed by force of arms upon the national representatives.

"Buonaparte, who never loved liberty, and who from the 18th Brumaire, year 8, meditated the servitude of France, knew well, that the better to rule the nation, it was necessary to picture its representatives as assassins.

"All I desire at present is to protest against a political falsehood, invented by an ambitious man, who wished to oppress his country, and justify the act of violence by which he seized upon power.

"The pension was granted to the Grenadier Pourcee, who consented to attest an assassination which never took place."

The petition was unanimously rejected.

His Majesty has erased Marshall Soult, Duke of Dalmatia, from the list of the 38 individuals included in the ordinance of the 24th July.

From the Maine, June, 7.—In a North German capital City, the differences which had arisen between the Sovereign and his eldest son appear not to be arranged. A person of high rank is said to have forced his way, with his sword drawn, into the Sovereign's study, to have attacked the persons present, and to have insulted an esteemed officer.—A courier, arrived from a Northern Court has caused credit to be given to the report, that a Northern Power has been applied to, for assistance, to prevent the measures which the Sovereign meant to take to prevent similar occurrences for the future. This event has made an unfavourable impression on the public. The officer is said not to have hitherto obtained any satisfaction; it is, however, to be expected that he will, since otherwise very disagreeable consequences might be apprehended. The abuse and ill treatment which have hitherto so often occurred, must of course become still more frequent—still less regard will be paid to decorum, and at the end some man of high sense of honour attacked in this manner, and certain of obtaining no satisfaction, will devote himself as a victim. It is indispensably quite incompatible with chivalrous and military ideas of honour for a Prince to insult a brave man, and then to take advantage of his birth to refuse him satisfaction.

Madrid, June, 16.—By a Royal Decree of the 12th instant, addressed to the Secretary of State, Minister of Grace and Justice, his Majesty has thought proper to remove the Marquess de Casa Irujo from the office of Minister Secretary of State. The Chief of Division, M. Manuel Gonzalez Salmon, is provisionally charged with the direction of the affairs of that department.—In consideration of the bad state of health of M. Egnia, Minister of War, the King equally discharges him from that department by another decree; at the same time he is appointed Captain General of the Kingdom and the Coasts of Grenada. The direction of the War Department is confided to Lieut. General Don Joseph Maria Alos, who is also to direct the affairs of the Ministry of Marine.—We are in all the agitation of a ministerial revolution. The Marquess de Casa Irujo was roused from his bed in the night of the 13th inst., by an order of exile, which banishes him to Avila. He had transacted business the previous evening with the King, without discovering the least prognostication of the storm which has just burst upon him. He quitted the capital before day light. It is thought that his place is destined for M. Onis, who has returned from the United States.

Polar Expeditions.

A Letter to John Barrow, Esq. on the subject of the Polar Expeditions; or, The Reviewer Reviewed—a Pamphlet—published by Ridgway, London, 1819.—8vo. 16 pages—Price One Shilling.—Re-published complete in this Journal.

To John Barrow, Esq. &c. &c. &c.

SIR,

To you is ascribed, and I believe with great justice, the almost entire management of our late endeavours to ascertain the existence of a North West and a Polar Passage to Behring's Straits; to you therefore, who undertook to play so leading a character in this Arctic Performance, I beg leave to address a few words, upon a subject as interesting, as circumstances connected with it have appeared extraordinary.

In a work compiled by you, giving a chronological history of the Discoveries in the Arctic Regions, there is, toward its close, a most inexplicable statement, entitled, the "Discoveries of Ross, Buchan, Parry, and Franklin."

May I request to be informed, for the benefit of the public, in what possible manner the discoveries of these officers could have been written previously to their return home, and before it was known whether any discoveries had been really made, or what had been the issue of their efforts? How this could have been effected, you may perhaps have sufficient sagacity to find out; whether the rest of the world may be capable of comprehending such a paradox, I will not venture to predict!

The fact is, that the paper in question does not contain one word relative to the subject on which it professes to treat; it bears only upon its face the strongest evidence of being a florid account of your own feats, in which you quote* your own writings, to prove your own assertions!

It is the puff of an empiric upon himself, in which he endeavours to anticipate the event of our late expedition, by pre-occupying the public mind with a high sounding statement of its fitness, its liberal equipment and its scientific and disinterested arrangements. To me, the account alluded to, is, I confess, in perfect unison with the same vaunting self-conceit, with the addition only of a little cunning, which dictated your unmanly remarks upon Captain Borney, and your unjustifiable attack upon Lieutenant Chapple. In the one case you attempt to refute the arguments of an old and distinguished officer, who has actually been to the place of which he treats, by telling him, that his respectable old age has destroyed his memory! and you make a zealous young officer the butt of your unfeeling sarcasms, solely for the purpose of introducing to the world your own ideas upon the practicability of a North West Passage to the Pacific. In the other, you contrive to write Discoveries, not yet made, in order to persuade the world, that of all expeditions, that of which you had the direction was the best, and the most efficient, that human wisdom ever yet planned; and thus endeavour to veil the blundering, rapacious self-sufficiency, which struck Baffin's Bay, that "gratuitous boundary," from the charts of the Northern Latitudes.

On this subject, however, I will be silent, and extend to your false premises and fallacious conclusions, that lenity, which, had you shown to others, would have been more creditable to yourself.

How far, as is stated in these *soi-disant* Discoveries,† that "every suggestion that appeared to merit consideration was attended to," or at least how far they were attended to, with that propriety which was due to the rank and zeal of those by whom they were offered, I leave to your own conscience to answer; and I could refer you to a letter, signed "John Barrow," in which the sneer of fancied superiority, the gall of criticism, and the insolence of office, are so thoroughly and curiously combined, that it forms a compound of all that could be either offensive or disgusting; and it proves, that, by you at least, anxiety for the service is accounted only for impertinent interference. Whatever may be the estimation in which you hold the zeal of officers for the welfare of the service, others think differently; and it may therefore be an act of friendship to remind you, of the station which you fill, and of the acceptance in which the world consider it. They deem the Secretary of a Public Board to be the humble organ of its resolutions, which it is his duty to communicate with decency and civility, "reverence and respect."

You next proceed‡ to inform us, that the officers sailed "in the full confidence of attaining the great object of the Expeditions, or at least with the determination of establishing the fact of its utter impracticability."

Whether these your Arctic Prophecies have been fulfilled, in this or any other particular, recent events have rendered it unnecessary for the public to inquire; but of this I would inform you, that the officers of his Majesty's Navy never have, and I believe from my soul never will require any such paragraphs as these, either to stimulate their exertions or

enhance the confidence which their countrymen repose in them. Like other fallible beings, they may want success, from accident, from an error in judgment, or from being tied down by the orders they receive: that they ever did quit the shores of England, but with the firmest resolutions of fulfilling the trust reposed in them, or of establishing the impossibility of its performance, no one but yourself ever yet deemed it requisite to contemplate.

We are told also, that where certain objects of Natural History could not be preserved, "accurate drawings would be made of them by such and such officers." Allow me to remark, that if these Expeditions were properly equipped, it was fair to presume, that all these circumstances would follow as corollaries to a scientific undertaking; and that a great Expedition, performed by the first maritime nation in the world, ought not to have stood in need of having its merits and its probable benefits set forth in a shape so questionable as this, bearing indeed no faint resemblance to the hand-bill of a conjuror, or the programme of a French spectacle. Again, it would appear extremely odd, that among the various things set forth in your list of officers, instruments, and artists, the names of any nautical and scientific draughtsmen do not once occur. How is this? Were they unnecessary, or could none be found? That one of these cases is correct, the detailed accuracy with which other portions of this Expedition have been set forth renders it almost impossible to doubt. Of these points some explanation will I hope be given, or else the world cannot but suppose, that where such blustering and propping was deemed right, there must have been something "rotten in the state of Denmark."

In another passage of the wonderful book in question, the public are informed by you, with much pomp and circumstance,‡ that two gentlemen, one a young man, who it seems was on the point of taking orders, and the other an officer of artillery, were recommended by the Royal Society as astronomers to the Expeditions, and to perform its scientific duties. Alas! our gallant Navy, how are they lessened in their own, how degraded in the eyes of others. "Quantum mutatur!"

Gracious Heaven! shall it be told in England, and will it be believed, that the Navy of England, whose skill and science have enabled them to explore the trackless deep in every clime, and to hunt our enemies from pole to pole, should be unable to produce even two officers capable of being astronomers to such an Expedition? Are the Navy then so fallen, that military men and civilians must supersede them in their own profession? Are sailors to command armies, and soldiers fleets? Or are our seamen to be insulted and neglected, and made the victims of invigilance, by those very persons who should most strenuously support them?

I shall perhaps be told, that as the object was general science, talent was to be sought in every quarter. The object no doubt was general science; but it was only to be attained by naval means; and while that service did possess one man adequate to the duties which were required, he and he only should have been employed. It is an imputation upon the Navy, which they feel, and an eternal stigma upon those who cast it.

Be these things as they may, both Expeditions have now failed, whether from the fault of those who arranged, or those who executed them, we have yet to learn, and shall no doubt be very candidly informed; as well by seeing the orders issued to the commanders on the subject of their voyage, as by having the return of one of them accounted for, apparently from the very entrance of that passage, the existence and investigation of which was the peculiar object of the enterprise. That these things should attach themselves to the officers, we can scarcely suppose, since they were, by your statements, selected with the most scrupulous disregard to interest, and from the most satisfactory proofs of their mathematical and nautical acquirements. In every way, however, whatever blame there may be, it must rest with those who directed these undertakings: were they ill planned, they alone are answerable; were the officers ill selected, then they are doubly responsible, to the country, for compromising its honour, and to these brave men, for sending them to lose and not to gain distinction; for you should remember, that as men are born with different capacities, so they are to be variously applied: that each one is best in his proper sphere; Soldiers on land, Sailors at sea, Clergymen in the pulpit, and Secretaries transmitting, not presuming to give orders.

I am, Sir, your obedient humble Servant.

A FRIEND TO THE NAVY.

British Officers in Foreign Services.

The following is a List of British Officers employed (under his Majesty's Licence) in the service of any foreign State; distinguishing their respective ranks, and the States by whom respectively employed:

IN THE SERVICE OF PORTUGAL.

GENERAL.—Lord Beresford.

Lieutenant Colonels—Sir John Wilson, Sir Archibald Campbell, Sir John Buchan, Sir Maxwell Grant, Sir William Cox, Sir Charles Sutton,

* Note to page 376, of Voyages into the Polar Regions.

† Page 379 of Voyages to the Polar Regions.

‡ Page 376.

§ Page 367, Polar Voyages.

Sir John Campbell, Gustavus Browne, Sir George Elder, Michael M'Crengh, Sir Henry Watson, Richard Armstrong, Chas. Ashworth, Sir Henry Pyn, and P. M'Neil.

Majors—Alexander Anderson, Sir Robert John Harvey, Kenneth Snodgrass, Isaac Henry Hewett, George Wm. Paty, John Prior, Thomas St. Clair, Peter Adamson, John Austin, Bryan O'Toole, Sir D. St. Leger Hill, Sir E. K. Williams, G. H. Zubleze, Sir Nicholas Trant, John Macdonald, Benjamin Sullivan, Cassius Mathew Clunohy, John Rolt, and Ralph Ousely.

Captains—Edward Knight, William Charters, Sir Frederick Watson Benjamin Orlando Jones, Thomas O'Neill, Edward Brackenbury, Thomas Baecke, Robt. Ray, J. P. Mabey, James Johnstone, Thomas Cox, William Gordon, William Cotter, E. V. Deriny, Charles Maximilian, Thomas Western, Robert Macintosh, Walter O'Hara, C. C. Mitchels, John William, Head Brydges, Thomas Smith, Hugh Hay Rose, Samuel Hawkins, Hugh Lumley, George Henry, Edward Murphy, Robert Haddock, William de Linetow, Charles John Fitzgerald, George Lennon, Graham Henry, Augustus M'Donald, Rodolph Steiger, William Dobbin, Nicholas Colthurst, Thomas Robert Shervinton, Sir Frederick Armstrong, Thomas Potter, John Pigott, George Edward Quenton, John Moore Foley, James Dodwell, Thomas Bunbury, John Sutherland, David Sheill, Richard Daniell, William Henry Thornton, Alexander Macgregor, James Robinson, John Murry Brown, Wm. Gordon, Charles Joseph de Franciosi, Charles Valentine Hodge, John Ewman, John M'Phail, A. Philip de Burgh, Archibald Ross.

Ensign—John Heron.

Deputy Inspector of Hospitals—Augustus West.

Staff Surgeons—Wm. Wynn, F. Jebb, John Clark, and — Barry.

IN THE SERVICE OF SPAIN.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Philip Keating Roche.

Captain Sir John Clarke.

Assistant Commissary General Sir John Downie.

IN THE SERVICE OF THE NETHERLANDS.

Lieutenant James Hojel.

IN THE SERVICE OF NAPLES.

Lieutenant Colonel Richard Church.

Storm and Comet.

To the Editor of La Quotidienne.

SIR,—During several days, a Comet had been remarked towards the north, and the country gentlemen have a singular dread of its influence; their presentiment in this respect appears to be justified by the terrible misfortune, which the inhabitants of Curzay and Jazeneuil have experienced.

Storms succeeded each other during a considerable time, and thunderbolts had fallen in several places. On the evening of the 5th of July, another storm came on, proceeding from the south-west towards the north-east. At midnight its violence was extreme, and it was accompanied by a most dreadful tempest of hail, showering down hailstones of an enormous size, which in ten minutes destroyed all the cultivation of the two communes.

The consternation is general, the loss incalculable; it comprizes every thing, vineyards, wood, and fields; not an ear of corn will be saved, they will not even have pasture for the nourishment of their cattle. At 10 o'clock this morning, the forests and the hollow paths are filled with hailstones as large as prunes; they pick up game in the fields; some cattle have been killed and all that were out have been wounded; all the dwellings even the most humble barns have been damaged; every one removed to avoid the imminent danger that threatened him, taking refuge in the safest part of his house; but in spite of this precaution, we should have had to deplore the loss of many people, if this storm had lasted a few minutes longer.

At the Chateau de Portail, the house was entirely unroofed, and if the strangers who inhabited it, had not precipitately left their bed to collect together in a safe place on the pavement, they would have been crushed to death, for the ceiling fell in, and this dwelling, entirely new, is now in a deplorable state.

If the government does not render assistance to these unfortunate inhabitants of Curzay and Jazeneuil, they will not be able to support themselves. Heavy contributions are levied on them for the repair of the two bridges, but they will not be able to pay any of them. The storm in its course has most probably ravaged other communes; but we have as yet learned nothing certain on this subject.

I have the honor to be, &c.

July 10, 1812.

DE CURYAY, Ancien Préfet des Deux Sèvres.

Law Decisions.

COURT OF CHANCERY.—JUNE 30, 1819.

The Princess of Wales v. Lord Liverpool, Count Munster, and another.

The Solicitor-General in this case moved, that the bill filed by her Royal Highness against the defendants should be dismissed, with costs to be taxed by the Master. The late Duke of Brunswick had signed several documents, giving the Princess £15,000, and the same day he also, as alleged in the bill, gave her by another document 15,000 French Louis. Lord Liverpool and Count Munster were appointed executors, and the present suit was instituted to compel them to make payment of the above claim. On seeing the document, Count Munster had some doubts as to the hand-writing, it being different from that which his Serene Highness used. The other document had not been produced, nor could the defendants put in their answer till that was done, and the funds in the mean time could not be administered. Four terms having now elapsed since the Court ordered this document to be produced, they felt it their duty to move for the Bill being dismissed.

Sir A. Pigott, followed on the same side; as did Mr. Heald.

Mr. Martin, for the royal plaintiff, said that the present case certainly lay in a very narrow compass. The sum was not of the slightest importance. When the order was made, the defendants were told, that they should have a fortnight to put in their answer after the document had been produced, and he contended that the defendants could not ask for the bill being dismissed till they had put in their answer. Their best plan would have been to obtain an order for the production of that deed in a given time, and if that was not done, then they might apply for dismissing the bill. He regretted, that the motion had been made at a time when the Princess could have no opportunity of instructing her legal advisers. He concluded by expressing a hope, that his Lordship would not agree to the motion.

The Lord Chancellor was clear, that when a defendant pledged himself by oath to put in his answer on a certain paper or document being produced, he could not answer till that was produced, without real injury to those for whom he acted; the Court could not make any decree till that was done. The present case must be decided on principle rather than precedent, and the question was, whether the defendants, placed in their present situation, had a right to claim the dismissal of the Bill, as though they had been differently situated. He hoped in God nothing on earth would induce him to have his judgment biased either way, and his order, therefore, was, that the paper be produced by the third seal, with liberty to her Royal Highness to make any motion on the first or second seal. If he said nothing on this subject to-morrow, then this order would be considered as final; but should he see cause to alter his opinion, he would state what he thought. His not saying any thing would be a proof that his order was final.

The Earl of Shaftesbury and Lord Robert Spencer, v. His Grace the Duke of Marlborough and Triphook.

Mr. Shadwell moved for an injunction to restrain the Duke and the defendant from selling, pawning, or disposing of certain gold and silver plate bequeathed by the Duke to the plaintiffs and a Mr. Blackstone, as trustees for the present Duke. The bill prayed, that the defendant Thomas Triphook should be ordered to give up such articles of plate as he had, and that he should not be allowed to sell or dispose of any other, until further order; and that the Duke should be also ordered to deliver up such articles as Mr. Triphook had not got in his possession; that if any of the plate was sold or destroyed, the Duke might be ordered to procure plate of an equal value, and deliver the same to the plaintiffs; and that the said articles, when restored, should be lodged in some place of safety, but that the Duke should be, meanwhile restrained from removing any articles from Blenheim House. The application now made to the Court was merely *ex parte*, but he (Mr. Shadwell) had no doubt the Court would accede to it. The will of the late Duke determined, that the gold and silver plate should be for ever considered as heir-looms at Blenheim-house. Inventories of the goods were ordered to be made and delivered to the trustees. By an affidavit, it appeared, that Mr. Palmer, of Piccadilly, had been employed to survey the property, and compare it with the inventory, but it was found the plate was gone, on which the deponent applied to his Grace on the subject, and was told the whole was in the hands of tradesmen, except two articles, which had been sent to have the arms engraven upon them. The Earl of Shaftesbury could not, however, obtain information about the plate, and though he was told the person had gone to Wales, he could not learn what his name was. A Mr. Pennigar said he had got £2 or £3000. on the plate, by order of the Duke, and that it could not be recovered without that sum being repaid. A letter was sent by Mr. Alderman Cox, of Little Britain, saying that the Marlborough plate was sent to him for safe, but as the arms were covered over with wax, he refused to purchase it; and when he added, that a Mr. John Hogg had declared, that the said plate was offered in pledge to a Mr. Parker, of Berner's-street, Oxford-road, and that the arms were concealed under wax, those facts spoke for themselves.

The Lord Chancellor, without any hesitation, granted the injunction.

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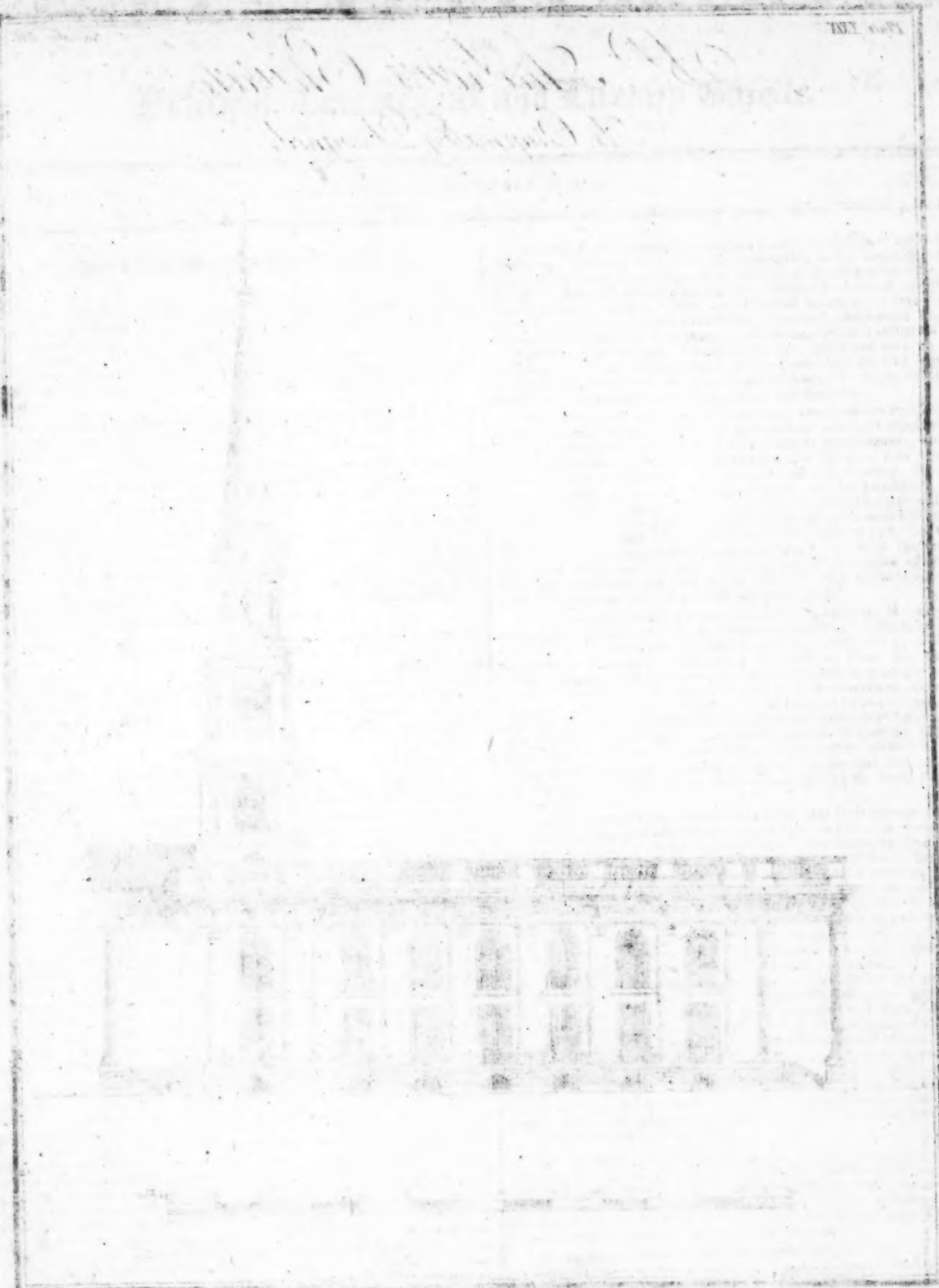


Plate. XIII.

November 1839

*St. Andrew's Church
As Originally Designed*



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